

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:JKEANE

APPROVED BY: AARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

S/:SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 314141 TOSEC 340160

EXDIS FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARRY W SHALUDEMAN

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM CARACAS DATED DECEMBER 29, 1976
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BOGOTA, BRASILIA, LA PAZ, LIMA,
QUITO, SANTIAGO IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T CARACAS 14834

EXDIS

FOR ARA ASST SEC SHLAUDEMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EC CI PE BL VE

SUBJECT: PERU-CHILE-ECUADOR

REF: STATE 310852

1. I HAD TWO LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ
ON SUBJECT, ONE DURING TRIP TO ROCKEFELLER'S RANCH
YESTERDAY AND THE OTHER AT BREAKFAST TODAY. CAP IN
FACT RAISED THE SUBJECT HIMSELF BY ASKING ME RIGHT OFF
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IF I HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT TENSION BETWEEN ECUADOR
AND PERU. I SUMMARIZED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS
INFORMATION I HAD PER CABLES FORWARDED WITH REFTTEL.
CAP SAID THAT HE HAD NOT REALIZED TENSION BETWEEN
THE TWO HAD RISEN UNTIL HE HAD HAD A TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION WITH ALFONSO LOPEZ THE PREVIOUS NIGHT

(DECEMBER 27).

2. THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNTHESIS OF THE POINTS CAP
MADE IN THE TWO CONVERSATIONS:

A) HE IS CONVINCED NO RPT NO HOSTILITIES ARE
IMMINENT. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE PERU HAS ANY
CONSCIOUS PLAN TO ATTACK ITS NEIGHBORS. HE IS
CONVINCED MORALES BERMUDEZ IS A VERY RATIONAL MODERATE
PERSON WHO WOULD NOT REACT THAT WAY TO PROBLEMS HE
SEES WITH HIS NEIGHBORS.

B) HE BELIEVES ECUADOR MAY BE MORE RESPONSIBLE
FOR CURRENT TENSION. HE THINKS THE JUNTA MADE A
BLUNDER IN NOT RECEIVING MORALES BERMUDEZ. MB WAS
CLEARLY IRRITATED ABOUT THIS WHEN HE ARRIVED IN
CARACAS ON HIS RECENT VISIT, BUT HIS GENERAL
REACTION WAS CALM AND CIVILIZED. CAP ALSO BELIEVES
THE JUNTA FEELS ITSELF POLITICALLY WEAK AND THEREFORE
MAY ACTUALLY BE INTERESTED IN CREATING EXTERNAL
TENSION AS A WAY TO BOLSTER ITSELF INTERNALLY.

C) WHILE CAP DOES NOT THINK THERE IS
IMMINENT DANGER OF PLANNED HOSTILITIES, HE DOES
THINK THE GENERAL SITUATION IS UNSTABLE. ILL
FEELINGS, REVANCHISM, AND FELT GRIEVANCES
CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH HOSTILITIES COULD BREAK
OUT UNEXPECTEDLY AND WITHOUT ANYONE WISHING IT OR
PLANNING IT. AN INCIDENT OR HOTHEAD COULD PROVIDE
A SPARK FOR AN IRRATIONAL BLOW-UP. THEREFORE SOME
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INITIATIVES TO LOWER THE LONG RANGE TEMPERATURE WOULD
BE IMPORTANT.

D) HE UNDERSTANDS THAT ADMIRAL PARODI IS
CURRENTLY IN SANTIAGO HAVING SATISFACTORY TALKS WITH
THE CHILEANS WHICH SHOULD KEEP THINGS CALM OVER THE
SHORT-RUN (SEE PARA 3 BELOW). SINCE PARODI IS A
PERSONAL FRIEND OF ADMIRAL POVEDA IN QUITO, CAP SAID HE
PLANNED TO SUGGEST TO MORALES BERMUDEZ THAT THE SEND PARODI
TO QUITO TO TALK TO POVEDA AND CALM THINGS DOWN THERE.

E) CAP SAID HE WAS GOING TO TALK TO LOPEZ
AGAIN AND SUGGEST THAT COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA--AS
AN ANDEAN PACT INITIATIVE--MIGHT URGE MODERATION AND
CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACHES TO THE REGION'S PROBLEMS.

F) THE PROBLEMS WILL NEVER BE ELIMINATED
HOWEVER UNTIL PERU AND ECUADOR TALK TO EACH OTHER

ABOUT THEIR TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS, AND UNTIL A CONSTRUCTIVE FORMULA IS AGREED UPON TO GIVE BOLIVIA CONSTRUCTIVE MARITIME ACCESS. AS REGARDS THE FIRST, HE SAID MORALES BERMUDEZ TOLD HIM THAT PERU CONSIDERS THE BORDER DELIMITATION QUESTION CLOSED AND SETTLED, BUT WOULD CONSIDER SOME FORMULA TO GIVE ECUADOR ACCESS TO THE AMAZON BASIN. AS TO THE SECOND, HE THOUGHT THAT SEVERAL NATIONS MIGHT GUARANTEE A BOLIVIAN ACCESS FORMULA AND UNDERWRITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA. SOME SORT OF SPONSORING FRAMEWORK BY A GROUP OF "GODFATHERS" WOULD SEEM IMPORTANT IN BOTH CASES.

G) HE THOUGHT "THE US AND VENEZUELA" MIGHT BE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE IN THIS REGARD. HE DID NOT THINK THE U.S. SHOULD ACT ALONE BECAUSE IT WOULD LOOK LIKE UNCLE SAM'S PATERNALISM AGAIN. HE HAD NO SPECIFIC SCENARIO IN MIND, BUT I INVITED HIM TO GIVE US ANY THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE AS TO WHAT CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE SECRET

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THE U.S. MIGHT PLAY.

H) HE THINKS THE ARMS QUESTION AN IMPORTANT ONE. CAP SAID HE TICKED THE RUSSIANS OFF FOR PROVIDING ARMS TO PERU. HE SAID BREZHNEV DENIED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD SELL PERU PLANES, BUT THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAD CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT PERU WAS GOING TO ACQUIRE SOVIET PLANES (CAP SAID MIGS). HE SAID THAT HE TOLD BREZHNEV THAT IF THE SOVIETS PROVIDED MORE ARMS IT WOULD INFLAME THE SITUATION AND HE WOULD BLAME THE SOVIETS FOR INCREASED TENSION. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, CAP HAD NO SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT THE AMERICAN NATIONS MIGHT DO ABOUT ARMS LIMITATION BUT SAID THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC TO TACKLE.

3. IN DESCRIBING PARODI'S ACTIVITIES, CAP READ FROM A REPORT FROM THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN LIMA OUTLINING THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING VIGNETTE: THE AMBASSADOR WAS SUMMONED TO THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN OFFICE AND INFORMED OF AN INITIATIVE UNDERTAKEN BY THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN ARGENTINA. THE LATTER TOLD THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES THAT HE HAD TALKED TO GENERAL VIDELA ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OAS FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING TO DEAL WITH THE BOLIVIAN/CHILEAN/PERUVIAN SITUATION. THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL INFORMED THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR THAT NO SUCH INITIATIVE WAS DESIRED OR NECESSARY BECAUSE PERU WAS HANDLING THE PROBLEM BILATERALLY WITH CHILE, AND THAT PARODI WAS NOT IN SANTIAGO FOR THAT PURPOSE HAVING SATISFACTORY DISCUSSIONS.

CAP SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THAT HIS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES HAD UNDERTAKEN ANY SUCH INITIATIVE NOR WHY, AND HE HAD ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION.

4. COMMENT: IN SUMGN CAP IS NOT ALARMED ABOUT ANY IMMINENT HOSTILITIES. HE WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW UP
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WITH SOME SOOTHING TOGETHER WITH LOPEZ BUT HE DOES NOT THINK WE NEED BE WORRIED ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE LONG-TERM CIRCUMSTANCES AND FEELS THAT SOME KIND OF SUPPORTIVE HELP TO LOWER THE LONG-TERM TENSION IS WARRANTED, THOUGH HE HAS SUGGESTED NOTHING SPECIFIC TO CATALYZE IT. VAKY UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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